

THE
 Connecticut Common School Journal
 AND
 ANNALS OF EDUCATION.

VOL. III.

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No. 9.

(The following Laws, pertaining to the Common Schools of Connecticut, were passed by the General Assembly at its last session. It will be seen that they effect some important changes which it will be well for School Visitors, Teachers and Committees to understand.)

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AND IN ALTERATION OF
 "AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION."

CHAPTER I.

Providing for the transfer to Towns of the Duties and Powers of School Societies with regard to Schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Assembly convened :

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the several towns within this State to provide for the support of common schools within their respective limits. Towns to provide for support of schools.

SEC. 2. The school districts now established by law shall become and remain school districts of the towns, within which they are situated, subject to certain limitations and exceptions hereinafter mentioned. School districts to remain as now established.

Powers and duties of school societies to cease, except in certain cases.

Debts, &c., to remain in force.

Powers relating to burying grounds conferred on towns.

Records of school societies to be hereafter kept with town records.

Present school officers to continue in office until next annual town meeting.

Reports to be made.

Town to hold local school fund.

SEC. 3. All powers and duties of school societies with regard to schools, except in certain cases herein after specially excepted, shall, when this act takes effect, cease and determine: Provided, however, that no debt, legal obligation, or pecuniary trust of any such society, pertaining to schools, shall be discharged hereby, but the same shall remain in full force against the town or towns within which such school society is situated.

SEC. 4. All the powers heretofore conferred upon school societies with regard to burying grounds and matters appertaining thereto, are hereby conferred upon the several towns within which such burial grounds are situated.

SEC. 5. The present records of the school societies shall be deposited and forever kept with the town records of the towns in which such school societies are situated; and where any school society lies within the limits of two or more towns, the records of such society shall be deposited and kept with the records of the town within which the greater part of the territory of such society lies.

SEC. 6. The present committees, school visitors, and other officers of the several school societies, shall continue to discharge all the duties of their several offices, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed, until the next annual meeting of the towns in which such school societies are situated, and shall then make to said towns, at said town meetings, the reports usually made to said school societies. And where a school society lies within the limits of two or more towns, the officers of said society shall make their said reports to that town within which the greater part of the territory of such society lies.

SEC. 7. All the funds, buildings, and property of every kind, now held for school purposes by the school societies, shall vest in the towns within which such school societies are situated, to be held by such towns for the purposes for which the same were held by the school societies. And where there are two or more school societies within the limits of any one town, and any of such school societies shall have a permanent fund for the support of schools, such fund shall be held in trust by said town for the support of

schools for the inhabitants of the territory now embraced within such school society; and where any school society shall lie within the limits of two or more towns, and shall be possessed of any such permanent fund, such fund shall be divided between or among such towns and the portions so distributed shall be held by such towns, in trust for the support of schools for the inhabitants of that portion of such school society lying within said town; and where any such school society shall have been indebted, such indebtedness shall in the same manner be divided between or among said towns.

When any society lies in two or more towns, fund to be divided. Indebtedness also to be divided.

SEC. 8. When it shall be necessary to distribute any fund, or divide any indebtedness, between or among different towns, in the manner provided by the last preceding section, such distribution or division shall be made by the selectmen of said towns; and if they cannot agree, then, upon application of the selectmen of either town, by a committee of three disinterested persons, to be appointed by the superior court within the county in which either of such towns shall be situated; who shall make report to said court, which report, when accepted by said court, shall be final in the premises; and the report of such committee, or the agreement of the selectmen, as the case may be, shall be recorded at length upon the records of each of said towns.

Funds belonging to societies, how divided between towns.

Report of committee to be recorded.

SEC. 9. Whenever there shall have been two or more school societies within any one town, and in consequence of the difference in the value of the corporate property (aside from permanent funds) of such school societies, or of the indebtedness of either society, or from any other cause, it shall be necessary that an equitable adjustment be made between the sections of such towns representing such school societies, the selectmen, or any ten citizens of said town, may within one year from the passage of this act, apply to the superior court for the County within which such town is situated, which shall appoint a committee of three disinterested persons to inquire into the facts, and report the same to said court, with a recommendation of such adjustment as they shall deem equitable, and such court may thereupon make any proper decree for such adjustment and shall have power to lay a tax, if necessary, upon either of such

Superior court to adjust funds and indebtedness.

sections, upon the list last before perfected, and to appoint a collector of the same, who shall collect such tax and pay over the same to the treasurer of the town, in the same manner and subject to the same regulations in all respects as other town taxes.

Certain school societies organized under law of 1855, to become school districts.

Said districts to chose a board of education in month of October.

Power and duties of such board of education.

SEC. 10. School societies heretofore organized under the act of 1855, entitled "An act in addition to and in alteration of an Act concerning Education," which are not coextensive with the towns within which they are situated, shall become school districts of said towns, with all the powers and duties of school districts as specified in this act, with the following exceptions, viz: Such school districts shall annually choose in the month of October, instead of a district committee, a board of education, consisting of three, six, or nine persons, in the manner prescribed in the first and second sections of chapter II of this act, for the election of school visitors; and said board of education shall have all the powers and be subject to all the duties imposed on the district committees; and in addition thereto shall have the general charge and superintendence of the common schools within their district, and the care and the management of the property and funds of the district; they shall lodge all bonds, leases, notes, and other securities with the treasurer of said district, unless the same have been entrusted to others by the donor or grantors, or by the general assembly; they shall pay into the treasury of the district all moneys which they may receive for the support of schools; they may annually appoint a committee, to visit schools and examine candidates for teachers, and to give to those candidates, with whose moral character, literary attainments and ability to teach, they are satisfied, a certificate, setting forth the qualifications of such teachers, and shall annul the certificates of those teachers who may be found unqualified, and who shall not conform to the provisions of this act, and to the regulations by them adopted; they shall determine the number and qualifications of the scholars to be admitted into each school; shall supply the requisite number of qualified teachers; shall prescribe rules and regulations for the management, studies, books, classifications and discipline of the schools in their district; shall, annually,

during the first two weeks of the month of September, ascertain the expense of supporting and maintaining the schools under their superintendence, during the year ending the 31st day of August previous, and report the same, together with the amount of moneys received towards the payment thereof, to the district, at a meeting to be held on the third Monday in September in each year; and shall at the same time make a full report of their doings and the condition of the schools under their superintendence, and all important matters concerning the same to the district, and shall perform all lawful acts which may be required of them by the district, and which may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties granted by this act.

SEC. 11. All existing school societies, in which school districts have been abolished, may avail themselves the privileges specified in the preceding sections.

Privilege of existing school societies where districts have been abolished.

SEC. 12. The funds, buildings and all other property of the school societies, specified in the two preceding sections, shall not be affected by this act, but shall remain, as heretofore, under the care and management of said school societies.

Funds, &c., of school societies to remain as heretofore.

CHAPTER II.

Powers and Duties of Towns.

SEC. 1. A board of school visitors shall be elected, by ballot, in every town, at the next annual meeting after the passage of this act, which shall consist of three, six, or nine members, of whom the first third elected shall hold office for three years, the next third for two years, and the last third for one year, and until others are chosen in their places.

Board of school visitors to be elected annually.

Term of office.

SEC. 2. At every annual meeting thereafter, all vacancies in the board of school visitors shall be filled by an election of the necessary members thereto by ballot; any member elected to fill an irregular vacancy, to hold office only for the unexpired term of his predecessor, and no person shall be ineligible on account of his having held the office the preceding year. In case of any vacancy occurring by death,

Vacancies how filled.

resignation or otherwise, the remaining members of the board may fill such vacancy until the next annual meeting of the town.

Where town has a permanent fund, a school fund treasurer to be elected, to have charge of said fund.

SEC. 3. In case any town shall have received any permanent fund or funds from any school society or societies within its limits, such town shall annually elect by ballot a school fund treasurer, who shall have the charge of such fund or funds, and keep a separate account of the same, and make an annual report to the town of the condition of said funds and of his disbursements of the same, and who shall give bond, with surety, to the satisfaction of the selectmen of the town, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

To give bond.

Powers of towns.

SEC. 4. The towns shall have power to establish and maintain common schools of different grades within their limits; to purchase, receive and hold any real and personal property for school purposes, and to convey the same; to build and repair school houses; to lay taxes and to make all lawful contracts and adopt all lawful regulations and measures for the education of the children of the town.

School business to be transacted in same manner as other town business.

SEC. 5. The business of the towns relating to schools shall be transacted, at regular and special town meetings, in the same manner and subject to the same regulations as other town business.

Selectmen to have care and management of property appertaining to schools and belonging to town.

SEC. 6. The selectmen shall have the care and management of any property or funds appertaining to schools and belonging to the town, and shall lodge all bonds, leases, notes and other securities with the treasurer, except so far as the same shall have been or shall be entrusted to others by the donor or grantor, or by the general assembly, or by the town; they shall pay to the treasurer all money which they may collect and receive for the use of schools; they shall settle and describe the boundary lines of any new school district, or of any existing district or parts of a district within their limits, where the lines are not now settled, and described, when applied to by the district, and shall cause the same to be entered on the records of the town; they shall designate the time, place and object of holding the first meeting in any new district, and perform all other lawful acts which may be required of them by the town, or which may be neces-

Boundary lines of new districts to be settled by selectmen.

sary to carry into full effect the powers of towns with regard to schools.

CHAPTER III.

Of School Districts.

SEC. 1. Each town shall have power to form, alter and dissolve school districts within its limits, and any two or more towns may form a school district of adjoining portions of their several towns, and may alter and dissolve the same; provided, that no district shall be divided, so that either part thereof, after such division, shall contain less than forty persons between the ages of four and sixteen years; and the jurisdiction of towns for such purposes shall extend to districts specially incorporated by act of the general assembly, in the same manner as to others.

Towns shall have power to form, alter and dissolve school districts.

Division of districts.

SEC. 2. When any school district shall be reduced in population, so as to contain less than twelve persons between the ages of four and sixteen years, it shall be the duty of the town or towns within which such district is situated, to dissolve the same and annex the territory thereof to the adjoining district or districts; provided, that if there shall exist any special reason why said district should not be dissolved, the selectmen of the town, or any five voters of such district, may apply to the superintendent of common schools, who shall examine the case, and, if he is satisfied that it is inexpedient to dissolve such district, he shall so certify to such town in writing, and such town shall not be required to dissolve such district.

District to be dissolved when the number of persons in it between four and sixteen years is reduced to less than twelve.

Proviso.

SEC. 3. Every school district heretofore formed from parts of two or more towns, shall, for all school purposes, belong to the town within which the school house of said district is now situated, unless such towns shall make some other agreement with regard to the jurisdiction over such district, and in all cases where any district shall hereafter be so formed, the towns from which the same are so formed, shall, in the formation of such district, agree as to the particular town to which such district shall belong. Pro-

School districts formed from two or more towns to belong to town where school house is situated.

Proviso.

vided, that the inhabitants of such district shall have no right to vote in any other town than that within which they reside.

Property in such district may be taxed for school purposes under provision of preceding section.

SEC. 4. The property of the inhabitants of a district formed from two or more towns may be taxed for school purposes in the town to which such district, under the provisions of the last preceding section, pertains; but for all other purposes shall be taxable in the town in which such inhabitants reside.

When districts are consolidated or divided, how corporate property is to be disposed of.

SEC. 5. When any two or more districts shall be consolidated into one, the new district shall own all the corporate property of the several districts; and when a district shall be divided, the funds and property, or the income and proceeds thereof, belonging to such district, shall be distributed among the several parts in proportion to the number of persons between the ages of four and sixteen in each; and in case the distribution shall not be made before the district is divided, and the several parts cannot agree, the selectmen of the town shall distribute the same.

When property consists of real estate the selectmen may award one party a sum of money equivalent to their share.

SEC. 6. Whenever, on any such division of any such school district, the only or principal property of said district, shall consist of a school house and real estate therewith connected, which cannot be divided between the several parts of said district without great inconvenience, the selectmen of the town, instead of dividing such school house and real estate, shall set such school house and real estate to one part, and award that the other part or parts shall receive from the part to which such school house and real estate are set, such sum of money as shall, in the judgment of such selectmen, be just and right, and such award shall be binding upon the several parts of such district.

Associations formed under statute of 1841 to be continued and managed accordingly.

SEC. 7. All associations under the statute of 1841, allowing any two or more adjoining school districts to associate together, and form a union district, entered into before the repeal of said statute, shall continue to be managed and regulated according to the provisions of the statute of 1841. any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Every school district shall hold annual meetings in September,

SEC. 8. Every school district shall hold an annual meeting on such day in the month of September in each year, as the committee, or clerk of the district in

the notice thereof may designate for the choice of officers and for the transaction of any other business relating to schools in said district; and shall also hold a special meeting whenever the same shall be duly called; and the district committee may call a special meeting whenever such committee shall think necessary or proper, and shall call a special meeting on the written request of five residents therein qualified to vote; which request shall state the object of calling the same.

for choice of officers.

Special meetings may be called by district committee.

SEC. 9. District meetings shall be held at the district school house; if there be no suitable school house, the committee shall determine the place of meeting; if there be no committee, the clerk shall determine the same; if there be no committee and no clerk, the selectmen of the town to which such district belongs shall determine the place of meeting, which shall in all cases be within the limits of the district.

Where district meetings shall be held.

SEC. 10. Notice of the time, place, and object of every annual and special meeting of the district, shall be given at least five days inclusive previous to holding the same. The district committee, or, if there be no such committee, the clerk, or, if there be no committee and no clerk, then the selectmen of the town shall give notice of a district meeting, either by publishing the same in a newspaper printed in the district, or by putting notice on the district school house, or on the sign-post within the district, or in some other mode previously designated by the district; but if there be no such newspaper, school house or sign-post, or other mode so designated, then the selectmen of the town to which said district belongs shall determine how and where the notice shall be given.

Notice of meetings, how given, and by whom.

SEC. 11. Every person residing in the district, qualified to vote in town meeting, may vote in district meetings; and every meeting may choose its own moderator, and may adjourn from time to time to meet at the same, or some other place. If any person or persons shall vote illegally in any school district meeting, such person or persons shall forfeit and pay the sum of seventeen dollars to the treasurer of the county where the offense is committed; and it shall be the duty of attorneys for the state in the

Who may vote in district meetings.

Penalty for illegal voting.

several counties, and grand jurors in the several towns, to make presentment of every such offense.

Name, number,
 &c., of districts
 to be recorded.

SEC. 12. The name, or number, and limits of every school district shall be entered on the records of such district, and on the records of the town to which such district belongs.

Concerning set-
 tlement of
 boundary lines.

SEC. 13. Whenever the boundary lines of any district are not clearly settled and defined, the selectmen of the town in which said district is situated shall settle and define the same; and whenever said selectmen cannot agree in settling and defining such boundary lines, the town to which such district belongs may appoint three indifferent persons for that purpose, who shall have the same authority therein as is herein conferred upon said selectmen, and said boundary lines may, in either case, when necessary, be defined by an actual survey; and when parts of such districts lie in two or more towns, the selectmen of the towns in which any such part is situated, or in case of disagreement, indifferent persons appointed as aforesaid, shall settle and define the boundary lines of such part.

Corporate pow-
 ers of school dis-
 tricts.

SEC. 14. Every school district shall be a body corporate, and shall have power to sue and be sued, to purchase, receive, hold, and convey real or personal property for school purposes; to build, purchase, hire, and repair school houses, and to supply the same with fuel, furniture and other appendages and accommodations; to establish schools of different grades; to purchase maps, globes, black-boards and other school apparatus; to establish and maintain a school library; to employ one or more teachers, and shall be holden to pay the wages of any such teacher or teachers as are employed by the committee of such district in conformity to law; to lay taxes for all the foregoing purposes, and to make all lawful agreements and regulations for establishing and conducting schools, not inconsistent with the regulations of the town to which said district belongs.

Officers who,
 when, and where
 chosen.

SEC. 15. Each school district shall choose, by ballot, at the annual meeting, a committee of not more than three residents of the district, a clerk, who shall be sworn, a treasurer and collector, who shall hold their respective offices until the next annual meeting, and until others are chosen and appointed, and any per-

son so chosen, who shall refuse or neglect to perform the duties of the office, shall pay five dollars to the treasurer of the district, for the use of said district; provided that any new district may choose their officers at their first, or at any subsequent meeting called by the selectmen of the town, who shall hold their offices till the annual meeting of such school district.

Penalty for neglect to perform duty.

SEC. 16. In case any district, at the time for the annual meeting, shall fail or neglect to appoint all or any of the officers required by this act, or any of the vacancies shall occur by death, removal from the district, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the school visitors of the town to which such district belongs, to make such appointment and fill such vacancy, on receiving written notice thereof from any three members of the district, and to lodge the name or names of such officers so appointed with the district clerk.

District failing to appoint officers, it shall be the duty of school visitors to appoint.

Names to be lodged with district clerk.

SEC. 17. The district committee shall give notice of all meetings of the district in the manner prescribed; shall, unless otherwise directed by the district, employ one or more qualified teachers; shall provide suitable school rooms, and furnish the same with fuel properly prepared; shall visit the schools, by one or more of their number, twice at least during each season of schooling; shall, when the scholars are not properly supplied with books, and their parents or guardians are too poor to furnish them, provide the same at the expense of the district; shall suspend during pleasure, or expel from school during the current season, all pupils found guilty, on full hearing, of incorrigibly bad conduct, and shall give such information and assistance to the school visitors of the town as they may require, and perform all other lawful acts that may be necessary to carry into full effect the powers and duties of school districts.

Duties of district committee.

SEC. 18. The clerk, treasurer, and collector of each school district, shall exercise the same powers and perform the same duties, in their respective districts, as the clerk, treasurer and collector of towns do, in their respective towns.

Powers and duties of clerk, treasurer, and collector.

SEC. 19. The inhabitants of each district, in lawful meeting, shall have power to require that the trea-

Treasurer and collector to give bonds if required

by district meeting.

surer and collector shall respectively give bonds to the district for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices, which bonds shall be approved of by the district committee, before the treasurer or collector shall enter on the duties of his office.

Concerning changing site of school house.

SEC. 20. The vote of two-thirds of any legal meeting shall be necessary to fix the site of a new school house, or to change the site of an old one; but if such two-thirds vote cannot be obtained in favor of any site, the school visitors of the town, or the school visitors of the towns, in which such district is located, on application of the district, shall fix the site and make return thereof to the clerk of the town in which such site shall be.

Where district does not support a school, the town may pay over school moneys to district where children do attend, upon certificate of district committee.

SEC. 21. Whenever a school district, from inability or other cause, shall not support a school within the same, and the scholars belonging thereto shall attend the school of any other district, it shall be lawful for the town where the enumeration of the children is made and returned, to receive from the comptroller of public accounts, and to pay over to the district or districts where such children actually attend school, the proportion of school moneys which are drawn on the children so enumerated; and a certificate from the committee of the school district where such children have attended school, that the money is so appropriated, shall be presented to the selectmen of the town to which such children belong, and shall be sufficient evidence that such money has been appropriated according to law.

How school district may take land for site of a school house.

SEC. 22. Any school district may take land which has been fixed upon by them, as the site of a school house for a common school, and which is necessary for that purpose, upon paying to the owner just compensation therefor. If the school district wishing to take land for the purpose aforesaid, cannot agree with the owner, upon the compensation to be paid him therefor, they may prefer their petition to the superior court, to be held in the county in which the land lies, praying that such compensation may be ascertained and determined by said court. The said petition shall be accompanied by a summons signed by competent authority, notifying the owner of the land to be

taken, to appear before the court to which the petition is returnable, and shall be served in the same manner as is provided by law for the service of bills or petitions in equity. And upon said petition, said court shall appoint a committee of three judicious and disinterested men, who, after being sworn, and after giving reasonable notice to the parties, shall examine the land proposed to be taken, and if they approve the site shall ascertain its value, assess such sum in favor of the owner as will justly compensate him therefor, and in case of non-approval of said site by said committee, they shall have power to fix another site and proceed as aforesaid, and make report of their doings to said superior court, and said court may reject the report of said committee, and set aside their doings for any irregular or improper conduct in the performance of their duties.

SEC. 23. If the report of said committee be rejected and their doings set aside, the court aforesaid shall appoint another committee, who shall proceed in the same manner as the first committee are required to proceed by the foregoing section. But if said report shall be accepted by said court, such acceptance shall have the effect of a judgment in favor of the owners of the land against the petitioners, for the amount of the assessment made by the committee, and execution may be issued therefor accordingly. *Provided, Proviso.* that said land shall not be used or inclosed by the school district for any purpose whatever until the amount of said judgment shall be paid to the party to whom it is due, or deposited for his use with the treasurer of the county.

SEC. 24. The school district preferring the petition aforesaid, shall pay the committee for making said assessment, a reasonable compensation for their services, which shall be taxed by the court to which their report is made. Committee making assessment to be paid by school district.

SEC. 25. Any school district wishing to take land, which has been fixed upon by them as the site of a school house for a common school, and being unable to agree with the owner of such land upon the compensation to be paid him therefor, may at any time when the superior court is not in session in the county in which such land is situated, prefer their petition to How school districts may take land as site for school house.

Committee may be appointed by superior court to determine compensation, &c.

either judge of the superior court praying for the appointment of a committee for the purposes specified in the twenty-second section of chap. III of this act. Said petition shall be accompanied by a summons signed by competent authority, notifying the owner of the land proposed to be taken, to appear before the judge to whom such petition is brought, at a time and place specified in said summons, and shall be served in the same manner as is provided by law for the service of bills and petitions in equity, at least twelve days before the time specified in said summons.

Powers and duties of committee.

SEC. 26. Any committee, so appointed, shall have all the powers and perform all the duties provided for committees appointed by the superior court in accordance with the twenty-second section of chap. III of this act, and shall make report of their doings to the next term of the superior court holden in the county wherein such district may be, upon which said superior court shall proceed, in all respects, as provided for in said twenty-second section.

How new school house shall be built.

SEC. 27. Whenever a district shall have voted to erect a new school house, the same shall be built according to a plan approved by the board of school visitors, and by the building committee of such district, but such officers shall not have power to require such district to expend any larger sum therefor, than such district shall vote to appropriate.

Money from school fund to be received, under what regulations.

SEC. 28. No district shall be entitled to receive any money from the school fund of the state, unless such district shall be supplied with a school house and out buildings pertaining thereto, which shall be satisfactory to the board of school visitors.

CHAPTER IV.

Of State Appointments, Taxation, and Expenses.

Income of school fund, how distributed.

SEC. 1. The income of the school fund, after deducting all expenses attending its management, shall be divided by the comptroller of public accounts, with the advice of the commissioner of the school fund, and distributed among the several towns in proportion to the number of persons between four and sixteen years

of age, as ascertained by the school visitors of such towns, in conformity with the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. The district committee shall annually, in the month of January, ascertain the name of every person over four and under sixteen years of age, who shall belong to such district on the first Monday of said month and compose a part of the family of his parents, guardians or employers, together with the names of such parents, guardians or employers, and shall make return of the same to the school visitors of the town to which such district belongs, on or before the twentieth day of January in each year; provided, that in such return no persons shall be included who are residing in such districts to attend private school or for other private purposes; but such persons shall be enumerated in the district where their parents or guardians reside.

District committee annually to return the names of scholars, also parents, &c., by 20th Jan.

SEC. 3. In case of the absence or inability of the district committee to make the enumeration and return above required, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the district to do the same in the manner and within the time before described.

If committee do not make returns it shall be the duty of district clerk.

SEC. 4. Whenever the committee and clerk of any school district shall omit to return to the school visitors of the town the enumeration of the children in their respective districts, within the time prescribed by law, it shall be the duty of one of the school visitors of such town to make such enumeration, before the first day of February in each year, and to return the same to said school visitors, and for making such enumeration, such visitor shall be entitled to receive five cents for each child so enumerated, to be paid from the next dividend belonging to said district, which may thereafter be received from the town deposit fund.

When committee and clerk do not make returns it shall be the duty of one of school visitors.

Compensation therefor.

SEC. 5. The return above required to be made to the school visitors shall be subscribed by the person making the same and sworn to before a magistrate according to the following form:

Returns to be sworn to.

I do hereby certify, that I have carefully enumerated according to law all persons between the ages of four and sixteen years within the school district, and do find that on the first Monday of

Form of return.

January, A. D. there were residing within said district and belonging thereto, the number of persons between the ages aforesaid.

A. B.

On this day of A. D. personally appeared the above named A. B. and made oath to the truth of the above return by him subscribed, before me.

C. D., *Justice of the Peace.*

School visitors to examine and correct returns and transmit to comptroller by 5th Feb. annually.

SEC. 6. The school visitors of the town shall examine and correct the returns made to them, so that no person shall be enumerated twice in different districts, or be improperly returned, and shall prepare and transmit to the comptroller of public accounts, on or before the fifth day of February, annually, a certificate, in which the number of persons shall be inserted at full length, which shall be sworn to according to the following form, to wit :

Form of certificate.

We, the school visitors of the town of do certify that from the returns made to us under oath, as by law provided, we find that on the first Monday of January, A. D. there were residing within said town and belonging thereto, the number of persons between the ages of four and sixteen years, and from the best information we have obtained, we verily believe that said number is correct.

} *School Visitors.*

On this day of A. D. personally appeared the above named school visitors, and made oath to the truth of the above certificate by them subscribed, before me.

C. D., *Justice of the Peace.*

Returns to be lodged with town treasurer. Comptroller to draw orders on Treasurer for

SEC. 7. The school visitors shall lodge the returns made to them with the treasurer of the town.

The comptroller of public accounts, on the application of the school visitors of any town, shall draw an

order on the treasurer for the amount which such town amount each town may be entitled to. may be entitled to, of all moneys appropriated by law, for the benefit, support and encouragement of common schools, which may be in the treasury on the 28th day of February in each year; provided that no order shall be drawn in favor of any town, until the school visitors shall certify in writing under their hands in the words following, to wit:

We, the school visitors of the town of do Form of certificate. certify that the schools in said town have been kept for at least six months in the year ending the day of last, by teachers duly examined and approved, and have been visited according to law; and that the moneys drawn from the public treasury by said town, for said year, appropriated to schooling, have been faithfully applied and expended, in paying for the services of said teachers, and for no other purpose whatever.

Dated at the day of A. D.

} School Visitors of
} the town of

To the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

SEC. 8. Whenever the school in any school district Certificate of school visitor to comptroller shall state when school has not been kept according to law. shall not be kept according to law, the school visitors of the town to which such district belongs, shall, in their certificate or certificates to the comptroller for the year following, state such fact, and also the number of children enumerated in such district, and the comptroller, when application is made for the school moneys payable to such town for said year, shall deduct from the whole number of children enumerated in such town, the number contained in such district, Comptroller to deduct accordingly. and shall draw an order for the benefit of the remaining districts of such town.

SEC. 9. Every town in lawful meeting, may authorize the school visitors in said town to draw an order on the town treasurer in favor of each district as have kept their schools in all respects according to law, for their proportion of all the public moneys received from the school fund for the use of schools, in the hands of Towns may authorize school visitors to draw on town treasurer in favor of districts having kept schools according to law.

Committee may be appointed by superior court to determine compensation, &c.

either judge of the superior court praying for the appointment of a committee for the purposes specified in the twenty-second section of chap. III of this act. Said petition shall be accompanied by a summons signed by competent authority, notifying the owner of the land proposed to be taken, to appear before the judge to whom such petition is brought, at a time and place specified in said summons, and shall be served in the same manner as is provided by law for the service of bills and petitions in equity, at least twelve days before the time specified in said summons.

Powers and duties of committee.

SEC. 26. Any committee, so appointed, shall have all the powers and perform all the duties provided for committees appointed by the superior court in accordance with the twenty-second section of chap. III of this act, and shall make report of their doings to the next term of the superior court holden in the county wherein such district may be, upon which said superior court shall proceed, in all respects, as provided for in said twenty-second section.

How new school house shall be built.

SEC. 27. Whenever a district shall have voted to erect a new school house, the same shall be built according to a plan approved by the board of school visitors, and by the building committee of such district, but such officers shall not have power to require such district to expend any larger sum therefor, than such district shall vote to appropriate.

Money from school fund to be received, under what regulations.

SEC. 28. No district shall be entitled to receive any money from the school fund of the state, unless such district shall be supplied with a school house and out buildings pertaining thereto, which shall be satisfactory to the board of school visitors.

CHAPTER IV.

Of State Appointments, Taxation, and Expenses.

Income of school fund, how distributed.

SEC. 1. The income of the school fund, after deducting all expenses attending its management, shall be divided by the comptroller of public accounts, with the advice of the commissioner of the school fund, and distributed among the several towns in proportion to the number of persons between four and sixteen years

of age, as ascertained by the school visitors of such towns, in conformity with the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. The district committee shall annually, in the month of January, ascertain the name of every person over four and under sixteen years of age, who shall belong to such district on the first Monday of said month and compose a part of the family of his parents, guardians or employers, together with the names of such parents, guardians or employers, and shall make return of the same to the school visitors of the town to which such district belongs, on or before the twentieth day of January in each year; provided, that in such return no persons shall be included who are residing in such districts to attend private school or for other private purposes; but such persons shall be enumerated in the district where their parents or guardians reside.

District committee annually to return the names of scholars, also parents, &c., by 20th Jan.

SEC. 3. In case of the absence or inability of the district committee to make the enumeration and return above required, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the district to do the same in the manner and within the time before described.

If committee do not make returns it shall be the duty of district clerk.

SEC. 4. Whenever the committee and clerk of any school district shall omit to return to the school visitors of the town the enumeration of the children in their respective districts, within the time prescribed by law, it shall be the duty of one of the school visitors of such town to make such enumeration, before the first day of February in each year, and to return the same to said school visitors, and for making such enumeration, such visitor shall be entitled to receive five cents for each child so enumerated, to be paid from the next dividend belonging to said district, which may thereafter be received from the town deposit fund.

When committee and clerk do not make returns it shall be the duty of one of school visitors.

SEC. 5. The return above required to be made to the school visitors shall be subscribed by the person making the same and sworn to before a magistrate according to the following form:

Compensation therefor.

Returns to be sworn to.

I do hereby certify, that I have carefully enumerated according to law all persons between the ages of four and sixteen years within the school district, and do find that on the first Monday of

Form of return.

January, A. D. there were residing within said district and belonging thereto, the number of persons between the ages aforesaid.

A. B.

On this day of A. D. personally appeared the above named A. B. and made oath to the truth of the above return by him subscribed, before me.

C. D., *Justice of the Peace.*

School visitors to examine and correct returns and transmit to comptroller by 5th Feb. annually.

SEC. 6. The school visitors of the town shall examine and correct the returns made to them, so that no person shall be enumerated twice in different districts, or be improperly returned, and shall prepare and transmit to the comptroller of public accounts, on or before the fifth day of February, annually, a certificate, in which the number of persons shall be inserted at full length, which shall be sworn to according to the following form, to wit :

Form of certificate.

We, the school visitors of the town of do certify that from the returns made to us under oath, as by law provided, we find that on the first Monday of January, A. D. there were residing within said town and belonging thereto, the number of persons between the ages of four and sixteen years, and from the best information we have obtained, we verily believe that said number is correct.

} *School Visitors.*

On this day of A. D. personally appeared the above named school visitors, and made oath to the truth of the above certificate by them subscribed, before me.

C. D., *Justice of the Peace.*

Returns to be lodged with town treasurer. Comptroller to draw orders on Treasurer for

SEC. 7. The school visitors shall lodge the returns made to them with the treasurer of the town.

The comptroller of public accounts, on the application of the school visitors of any town, shall draw an

order on the treasurer for the amount which such town amount each town may be entitled to. may be entitled to, of all moneys appropriated by law, for the benefit, support and encouragement of common schools, which may be in the treasury on the 28th day of February in each year; provided that no order shall be drawn in favor of any town, until the school visitors shall certify in writing under their hands in the words following, to wit:

We, the school visitors of the town of do certify that the schools in said town have been kept for at least six months in the year ending the Form of certificate. day of last, by teachers duly examined and approved, and have been visited according to law; and that the moneys drawn from the public treasury by said town, for said year, appropriated to schooling, have been faithfully applied and expended, in paying for the services of said teachers, and for no other purpose whatever.

Dated at the day of A. D.

} School Visitors of
} the town of

To the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

SEC. 8. Whenever the school in any school district shall not be kept according to law, the school visitors of the town to which such district belongs, shall, in their certificate or certificates to the comptroller for the year following, state such fact, and also the number of children enumerated in such district, and the comptroller, when application is made for the school moneys payable to such town for said year, shall deduct from the whole number of children enumerated in such town, the number contained in such district, and shall draw an order for the benefit of the remaining districts of such town. Certificate of school visitor to comptroller shall state when school has not been kept according to law.

SEC. 9. Every town in lawful meeting, may authorize the school visitors in said town to draw an order on the town treasurer in favor of each district as have kept their schools in all respects according to law, for their proportion of all the public moneys received from the school fund for the use of schools, in the hands of Comptroller to deduct accordingly. Towns may authorize school visitors to draw on town treasurer in favor of districts having kept schools according to law.

Each district to receive not less than thirty-five dollars.

No district to receive money in which the school has not been kept by teachers duly qualified, at least six months.

In cases of forfeiture, application to be made to superintendent of common schools.

School moneys misapplied to be forfeited to the state.

Penalty for fraudulent certificate.

the treasurer, in proportion to the number of persons between the ages of four and sixteen in such district : provided, that whenever the public money derived from the school fund will not amount, according to the rule of distribution, to thirty-five dollars for a district in any one year, it shall be the duty of the selectmen and town treasurer to appropriate from the amount raised by said town for the purpose of education, a sum sufficient to make the amount equal to thirty-five dollars ; and provided further, that no school district shall be entitled to any portion of the public money, unless the school in said district has been kept by a teacher or teachers, duly qualified, for at least six months in the year, and visited twice during each season by the visitors of the town, nor until the district committee shall certify that the public money received by the district for the year previous, has been faithfully applied and expended in paying for the services of such teacher or teachers, and for no other purpose whatever.

SEC. 10. In all cases of forfeiture of public money, under the two next preceding sections of this act, application shall be made to the superintendent of common schools, who shall examine the facts of each case and decide according to its equity on the right of the applicants to receive the money so forfeited ; and the same shall be paid as if no forfeiture had occurred, on his certificate to the comptroller of public accounts in approbation of such payment.

SEC. 11. If any money appropriated to the use of schools, shall be applied by a town or a school district to any other purpose, the same shall be forfeited to the state, and it shall be the duty of the comptroller to sue for such money in behalf of the state, to be applied to the use of schools.

SEC. 12. If any school visitor or school visitors shall at any time fraudulently make a false certificate, by which money shall be drawn from the treasury of this state, each person so fraudulently making such certificate, shall forfeit the sum of sixty dollars to the state, to be recovered by action of debt on this statute, and it shall be the duty of the comptroller to bring a suit to recover the same.

SEC. 13. Any school district may fix, or authorize its district committee to fix, a rate of tuition to be paid by the persons attending school, or by their parents, guardians or employers, towards the expense of fuel, books and other expenses, (including estimated deficiencies of payment,) over and above the money received for the town or state appropriations, and the district, or district committee, shall exempt therefrom all persons whom they consider unable to pay the same; *provided*, that the rate of tuition shall not exceed one dollar per scholar for any term of twelve weeks, except in districts where different grades of common schools are established, where the rate for the higher grades shall not exceed two dollars per scholar for the same time.

School districts may fix rate of tuition.

All such bills may be required to be paid in advance, or may be delivered to the town or district collector, and may be by them collected in the same manner as town taxes are collected.

Bills may be required to be paid in advance

SEC. 14. Whenever a district shall impose a tax, the same shall be levied on all the real estate situated therein, and upon the polls and other rateable estate, except real estate situated without the limits of such district, of those persons who are residents therein at the time of laying such tax, and said real estate shall not be taxed by any school district, except the one in which the same is situated, and said tax shall be made out and signed by the district committee from the assessment list of the town or towns to which said district belongs, last completed or next to be completed, as said district shall direct, and no deduction or abatement shall be made on account of the indebtedness of the owner of any estate so taxed.

District tax to be levied on real estate within said district, and other property situated without said limits, belonging to persons resident therein.

SEC. 15. Whenever real estate situated in one district is so assigned and entered in the grand list in common with other estate situated out of said district, that there is no distinct and separate value put by the assessors upon the part lying in said district, then said district wishing to lay a tax as aforesaid, may call on one or more of the assessors for the time being of the town in which said property is situated, to assess, and they shall on such application, assess the value of that part of said estate which lies in said district, and return the same to the clerk of said town, and notice of such assessment and of the

When real estate is not entered separately on grand list, district wishing to lay a tax to call in one or more assessors of the town.

meeting of the assessors and selectmen hereafter mentioned, shall be given by the district committee in the same way as a notice for school meetings, and at the end of fifteen days after said assessment has been returned as aforesaid, said assessors and selectmen shall meet in such place as said district committee shall designate in his notice aforesaid, and shall have the same power in relation to such list as the board of relief have in relation to such list of towns, and when such list shall be perfected by said assessors and selectmen, the same shall be lodged with the town clerk, and said assessment shall be the rule of taxation for said estate by said district for the year ensuing, and said assessors shall be paid by said district a reasonable compensation for their services.

School district
may appoint
constables col-
lectors.

SEC. 16. The several school districts in this state may appoint either of the constables of the town or towns in which such school district may be situated, to be collector of the taxes of such school district, whether such constable belongs to said district or not, and it shall be the duty of the constable appointed such collector, on receiving any rate tax or assessment bill from the committee of any such school district, forthwith to collect the same, and pay the amount of such bill or bills into the treasury of such school district, and said constable shall be allowed such fees for collecting the same as are allowed to collectors of state taxes.

Towns to raise
by taxation not
less than one
cent on the
dollar on their
grand list, to be
used for school
purposes.

SEC. 17. It shall be the duty of each of the towns in this state annually, on or before the twentieth day of February, to raise by taxation such a sum of money as they may deem advisable, not less than one cent on the dollar, on their grand list made and perfected, and cause the same to be paid into the treasury of the several towns respectively, for the benefit, support, and encouragement of common schools; and the whole amount of money so raised, shall be annually distributed to the several school districts within each town, under the direction of the selectmen and school visitors.

Towns neglect-
ing to raise
such sum to
forfeit an equal
amount to the
state.

SEC. 18. If any town shall neglect to raise such sum of money, not less than one cent on the dollar, in the manner and within the time limited in the preceding section of this act, or shall fail to distribute the same

according to the provisions of said section, such town shall forfeit and pay to the treasurer of this state, for the use of the state, a sum equal to the amount which it was the duty of such town to raise, as aforesaid, to be recovered by said treasurer in an action upon the case under the statute.

CHAPTER V.

Of School Visitors.

SEC. 1. The board of visitors shall prescribe rules and regulations for the management, studies, books, classification and discipline of the schools in the town; and shall themselves or by a committee by them appointed for that purpose, examine all candidates for teachers in the common schools of such town, and shall give to those persons with whose moral character, and literary attainments, and ability to teach they are satisfied, a certificate, setting forth the branches he or she is found capable of teaching; provided, that no certificate shall be given to any person not found qualified to teach reading, writing, arithmetic and grammar, thoroughly, and the rudiments of geography and history; shall visit all the common schools of said town twice at least during each season for schooling, once within four weeks after the opening, and again within four weeks preceding the close of the school, at which visits they shall examine the register of the teacher, and other matters touching the school house, library, studies, discipline, mode of teaching, and improvement of the school; they shall make return of the number of persons over four and under sixteen years of age in said town, to the comptroller, and draw orders on the same for any portion of the public money due to said town as heretofore prescribed; and they shall draw all orders on the town treasurer or school fund treasurer, for all moneys due the common schools of said town.

School visitors to prescribe rules, studies, books, &c., examine teachers, visit schools, make returns of number of persons between four and sixteen to comptroller, and draw orders on town treasurer for school moneys.

SEC. 2. The board of visitors shall annul by a majority vote of the board, the certificates of such teachers as shall be found unqualified, or who will not conform to the law and the regulations adopted by the visitors,

Board of visitors may annul certificates of unqualified teachers, and shall submit written report to

the town at the annual meeting.

and shall submit to the town at their annual meeting, a written account of their own doings and of the condition of the several schools within their limits, for the year preceding, and said board may appoint a committee of one or two persons, to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of said visitors, subject to their rules and regulations, which committee shall be called the acting school visitor or visitors.

Acting school visitors to visit each common school in the town twice during each season, in company with school visitors, and to make report to superintendent of common schools, and to answer enquiries propounded by him.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the acting school visitor or visitors of every town, to visit every common school in said town, in company with one or more of the visitors, or of the district committee, if such attendance can be obtained; and such visits shall be made twice at least during each season of schooling, in conformity with the provisions of this act. It shall be their duty, unless otherwise directed by the visitors, to spend at least half a day in each school visit; it shall be his or their duty to make a full annual report of the condition of the common schools of said town and of all the important facts concerning the same, to the superintendent of common schools, on or before the first day of October, annually, and to answer in writing all inquiries that may be propounded to him or them on the subject of common schools by said superintendent. He or they shall also prepare an abstract of such report, to be read at the annual meeting of said town.

Compensation of acting school visitors.

SEC. 4. The acting school visitor or visitors of every town shall receive for the time actually employed in the performance of the duties prescribed in this act, the sum of one dollar twenty-five cents each, per day, to be paid out of the treasury of the town in which the school houses of the schools visited by him or them are situated; provided that he or they shall have made his or their annual report in the manner prescribed in the preceding sections; and provided further that his or their account shall be approved by the visitors of the town.

High school to be subject to management of board of visitors.

SEC. 5. Whenever a common school of a higher grade, for the older and more advanced children of either sex, shall be established and maintained by any town, such school shall be subject to the management of the board of visitors, unless otherwise directed by the town, and shall receive such proportion of

all money provided for the support of common schools in such town, as the number of scholars attending such high school shall bear to the whole number attending all the other common schools of the town.

SEC. 6. No town shall be entitled to receive its share of the public money from the treasury of the state, unless the report required by the third section of chap. V of this act shall have been made by the school visitors to the superintendent of schools.

No town to receive public money unless the report shall have been made to superintendent of common schools.

CHAPTER VI.

Of District Committees.

SEC. 1. The committee of every district shall, on or before the 30th day of September in each year, make a written report to the board of school visitors of the town, which shall state,

District committee to make report to school visitors of the town.

1. The whole term for which a school or schools in such district shall have been kept by a qualified teacher or teachers, during the year ending the thirty-first day of August, and how much of said term was winter school, and how much summer school.

Subjects of report.

2. The amount of money received from the school fund of the state, town deposit fund, local funds, town tax, district tax, rate bills and all contributions, whether in board, fuel or otherwise, for the year ending the thirty-first day of August.

3. The whole number of children, between the ages of four and sixteen, the number of each sex in the summer school, and in the winter school, the average attendance both summer and winter of each sex, and the number of pupils attending school, over sixteen years of age.

4. The number of male and of female teachers employed, and for how long a time each.

5. The wages of male teachers per month, and of female teachers per week, including board, when received as a part of the teachers' compensation.

6. The amount expended during the year for school buildings, for apparatus and library, and for other school purposes.

7. The different branches taught in the schools, the

number of pupils in each branch, the number of public examinations, lectures, visits, and by whom, and such other information as may be required by the board of visitors or by the superintendent.

SEC. 2. No district shall be entitled to receive its share of the public money from the state treasury, unless the report required by the next preceding section shall have been made by the committee of the district.

CHAPTER VII.

Of Teachers.

Teachers must receive certificate of examination and approbation from visitors.

SEC. 1. No teacher shall be employed in any school, supported by any portion of the public money, until he has received a certificate of examination and approbation signed by a majority of the board of visitors, or by all the committee by them appointed, nor shall any teacher be entitled to draw any portion of his wages, so far as the same is paid out of any public money appropriated by law to schools, unless he can produce such certificate, dated previous to the opening of his school, provided, that no new certificate shall be necessary when the teacher is continued in the same school more than one term, unless the visitors shall require it.

Teachers to keep register.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of every teacher in any common district school, to enter in a book or a register to be provided by the clerk, at the expense of the district, the names of all the scholars attending school, their ages, the date when they commenced, the length of time they continued, and their daily attendance, together with the day of the month on which such school was visited by the school visitors of the town or committee by them appointed; which book or register shall be open at all times to the inspection of all persons interested, and be delivered over by the teacher at the close of the term, to the district clerk, together with a certified abstract showing the whole number of pupils enrolled, the number of males and females, and the average daily attendance.

It shall also be the duty of the teacher, so far as practicable, to furnish to the district committee such information with regard to matters appertaining to the school, as shall be by them required.

To furnish information to the district committee.

SEC. 3. No teacher shall be entitled to any pay for his services, who shall have neglected to perform the duties enjoined by the next preceding section.

No teacher entitled to pay who neglects preceding section.

SEC. 4. All examination of teachers under the first section of chapter fifth of this act, shall be conducted by a majority of the board of school visitors, or by all the committee by them appointed.

Examination of teachers how conducted.

CHAPTER VIII.

Of the Superintendent of Schools.

SEC. 1. The principal of the state normal school shall be, *ex officio*, superintendent of common schools, whose duty it shall be to exercise a general supervision over the common schools of the state, to collect information from the school visitors in the manner provided in the third section of chapter fifth of this act, and from other sources, to prepare and submit an annual report to the general assembly, containing a statement of the condition of common schools of the state, plans and suggestions for the improvement and better organization of the common school system, and all such matters relating to his office, and to the interests of education, as he shall deem expedient to communicate.

Principal of normal school to be ex-officio superintendent of common schools.

His duties.

SEC. 2. The superintendent of common schools is hereby authorized and directed to hold, at one convenient place in each county of the state, schools or conventions of teachers, for the purpose of instructing in the best modes of governing and teaching common schools, and to employ suitable teachers and lecturers to assist him in conducting said schools, and for the purpose of defraying the expenses of each school or convention so held, the superintendent may draw upon the comptroller for a sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty dollars, to be paid from the civil list funds of the state.

To hold conventions of teachers in each county.

His compensa-
tion.

SEC. 3. The compensation of the superintendent shall be three dollars per day, in full for his services while actually employed in performing the duties required of him by law, and shall be allowed his necessary disbursements for traveling expenses, stationery, printing and clerk hire, in the business of said office, which compensation and disbursements shall be paid from the civil list funds of the state, after being taxed and allowed by the comptroller, who shall draw an order on the state treasurer therefor.

To give notice to
towns of time
and place of con-
ventions.

SEC. 4. The superintendent of common schools shall be, and he is hereby directed to give seasonable notice to each town, of the times and places of holding such schools or conventions, and such other notice to the teachers as he may deem expedient.

CHAPTER IX.

Of School Libraries.

Treasurer author-
ized to pay ten
dollars to school
districts raising
an equal sum, to
establish school
libraries or pro-
cure apparatus,
and to pay five
dollars annually.

SEC. 1. The treasurer of the state, upon the order of the superintendent of schools, is hereby authorized and directed to pay over the sum of ten dollars, out of any moneys that may be in the public treasury, to every school district which shall raise by tax or subscription a like sum for the same purpose, to establish within such district a school library, and to procure philosophical and chemical apparatus; and the further sum of five dollars annually, upon a like order, to the said districts, upon condition that they shall have raised a like sum for such year, for the purposes aforesaid.

Selection of
books to be ap-
proved.

SEC. 2. The selection of books for such libraries shall be approved by the board of visitors of each town.

Board of visitors
may make regu-
lations.

SEC. 3. The board of visitors of each town shall make proper rules and regulations for the management, use and safe keeping of such libraries.

Acts repealed.

All public acts heretofore passed and now in force in this state relating to the subject of education, are hereby repealed, except such as are hereinafter specified—to wit—an act for the establishment of the state

normal school, passed in the year 1849, page 416 of the compilation of 1854.

All acts confirming and validating school society and school district meetings, and doings therein.

Chapter first of "an act concerning education," page 407 of compilation of 1854.

"An Act in addition to an act, concerning education," passed in 1851, page 411 of compilation of 1854. Acts continued in force.

Chap. sixth of "An Act concerning education," page 439 of compilation of 1854, which acts and parts of acts above specified are, and are hereby declared to be in full force.

Provided this act shall not affect any suit now pending.

Approved, July 1st, 1856.

ACTS CONTINUED IN FORCE.

TITLE X.

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION.

CHAPTER I.

*Treats only of Colleges.**

CHAPTER II.

Of Common Schools and School Societies.†

SEC. 1. That no future meeting of any school society or school district shall be deemed to be legally warned, unless, in addition to the notice now required to be given of the time, place and object of such meeting, the person or persons giving such notice shall, on the day of giving such notice, leave a duplicate of the same with the clerk of such society or district, which it shall be the duty of such clerk to preserve on file.

1851.
Copy of warning for school society or district meeting, to be left with the clerk.

* Page 407, compilation of 1854. † Page 411, compilation of 1854.

SEC. 2. That every school society, at any legal meeting, specially warned for that purpose, may designate the time and place of holding all subsequent annual meetings of said society, within said society's limits; *provided*, that such annual meetings be appointed at some time within the month of September, or October, in each year.

CHAPTER VI

*Of the School Fund.**

SEC. 70. The commissioner of the school fund shall cause the net amount of interest received yearly on said fund, to be distributed for the benefit of the public or common schools, according to law.

SEC. 79. The comptroller shall, on application of the committee of any school society, draw an order on the treasurer for the amount legally due such society.

[The rest of this chapter relates to the school fund commissioner and the management of the school fund.]

AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE
NORMAL SCHOOL.

(This Act provides for the establishment and support of a State Normal School. It was passed in 1849 and is continued in force. It provides for the election of Trustees, designates their duties, and defines the object of the institution, &c.)

* Page 439, compilation of 1854.

Resident Editor's Department.

WHAT IS DOING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOLS IN CONNECTICUT?

In considering the progress of the good cause of Common School Education in Connecticut, we feel it unnecessary to offer any apology for devoting so much of our present number to the publication of the new School Laws. Every school visitor, every teacher, and every friend of popular education will feel an interest in these laws, and be glad to possess them in a convenient form for reference. They have been arranged and printed under the immediate direction of E. B. Trumbull, Esq., the efficient Clerk of the last General Assembly. These laws will effect some important changes in our school system, but we believe they are such as will tend to the improvement of the schools. The abolition of School Societies, or making them co-extensive with town limits, will, we believe, meet with general approbation. It will at once tend to simplify school operations, and at the same time awaken more general interest on the part of the people. It will also lead to a greater degree of uniformity in the management of schools and in the use of text books.

The powers and duties of school visitors, teachers, district committees, clerks, treasurers, collectors, &c., are clearly and fully defined. If they are properly understood and faithfully regarded, we have no doubt of their efficacy and appropriateness.

One of the most important provisions of the new laws is that which encourages the establishment of School Libraries. This, if properly carried out, will prove highly beneficial. It will be seen that every district which will raise, by subscription or tax, the sum of ten dollars may draw an equal amount from the State treasury for the purpose of establishing a Library for the use of the school within the district. Is there a district within the limits of the State which will long delay to avail itself of the advantages thus offered? We earnestly hope that every district will take early action in this matter, and that before the close of the year the youth, in each of our more than sixteen hundred

districts, may have a liberal supply of interesting and useful books for their perusal. Are there not some friends of education in each district who will take prompt action on a subject of such vital interest? Let our youth be well supplied with good books and be encouraged to devote their leisure hours to reading, and we shall hear much less complaint respecting their disorderly conduct in the streets and elsewhere.

We hope the new laws will be received with a good spirit, and that all will aid in securing their full operation. We believe they will give general satisfaction, though for a brief season there may be some friction,—such as would be incident to any change, though decidedly for the better. There may be a few places in which the operation of the new laws will be no improvement upon the old; but we believe that in nearly every instance the gain will be very decisive. Let a spirit of candor and a true desire to advance the interests of Common Schools prevail, and we shall find that the new order of things will tend greatly to the increase of interest on the part of the people, and the consequent improvement of the schools. We cannot but regard the enactment of these laws as the most important step, towards the promotion of Common School interests, that has been taken for many years.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The autumn term of this institution commenced Aug. 13, under very encouraging circumstances. There are one hundred and fifty members, of whom more than one-half are young gentlemen. The general appearance of those in attendance is highly creditable.

The anniversary exercises of the graduating class, which consists of twenty-two members, will take place on Wednesday, October 8th. A more particular notice of these exercises will be given in our next.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

Arrangements for the several county Institutes to be held this autumn have been partially made, and so far as completed we announce the result.

The Institute for Middlesex county will be held at HADDAM, and commence Monday evening, September 22d.

That for Litchfield county will be held at WOODBURY, commencing Monday evening, 29th September.

The Institutes for New Haven and New London counties will commence Monday evening, Oct. 13 : the former at BRANFORD and the latter at NEW LONDON. That for Fairfield County will be held at NEW-TOWN, commencing Oct. 20th.

The Institutes for the other counties will be held during the latter part of October and early part of November. The places and other particulars will be given in our next issue.

Will School Visitors and Teachers do what they can to awaken an interest in behalf of these important auxiliaries in the cause of common school improvement? Every effort will be made to have the exercises interesting and profitable, and it is hoped that all who can will avail themselves of the advantages thus liberally provided by the State. The aggregate number in attendance last year was upwards of *seven hundred*. Shall we not have an aggregate of *ONE THOUSAND* this year?

SCHOOL APPARATUS.

By an Act of the last General Assembly, any district within the State, may obtain a set of Holbrook's School Apparatus, for the trifling sum of three dollars, being about one seventh of the regular retail price. Is there a single district which will, for a single month, neglect to procure a set? If there is, we should expect to find in it people who would, to save a three cent piece, put their children on a half allowance of bread and water.

Heretofore there may have been those who were ignorant of the proper methods of using this valuable apparatus, but a recent work, prepared and published by Mr. F. C. Brownell, of Hartford, will remove all objections under this head.

Let every district supply itself with Holbrook's Apparatus and Brownell's Guide to Illustration. Both may be obtained at 29 Asylum street, Hartford.

SCHOOL FURNITURE.

We would call the attention of those about to erect new school houses, or newly furnish old ones, to the advertisement of Mr. Ross, who has done more than any other person towards improving the manufacture of school desks and chairs. From a glance at the cuts representing his patterns, we may almost infer that he has reached the *ne plus ultra* point.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

A SYSTEM OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY; containing a description of the natural features of the land and water, the phenomena of the atmosphere and the distribution of vegetable and animal life. To which is added, a Treatise on the Physical Geography of the United States. By D. M. WARREN. Quarto. 92 pp. Philadelphia: H. Cowperthwait & Co.


Within a few years the subject of Physical Geography has received much attention, and many valuable works on the subject have been published. To this number, Mr. Warren has added the very beautiful and attractive book whose title we give above. From the examination we have been able to give it, we are induced to regard it as one of the very best works, of its class, for school use. Its appearance is very attractive, and the publishers have performed their part most faithfully. We commend the work to the favorable consideration of teachers and committees.

A TREATISE ON ENGLISH PUNCTUATION; designed for letter-writers, authors, printers, and correctors of the press; and for the use of schools and academies. With an Appendix, containing rules on the use of capitals, a list of abbreviations, hints on the preparation of copy and on proof-reading, specimen of proof-sheet, &c. By JOHN WILSON. 12mo. 334 pp. Boston: Crosby, Nichols & Co.

This valuable treatise was first published in England, many years ago. It was prepared by a practical printer of much experience. It has recently been enlarged by the author, and is now the most complete and reliable guide, with which we are acquainted, on the subject of which it specially treats. If it should be used in all our higher schools and academies, it would prove highly serviceable,—for these subjects have heretofore been sadly neglected.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE WEATHER AND A GUIDE TO ITS CHANGES. By T. B. BUTLER. 12mo. 414 pp. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

We have been much interested in the perusal of this volume. Its author, Judge Butler, has presented his views on the weather and its changes, not only in a plain and sensible, but also in a highly instructive and interesting style. Even those who cannot agree with all his positions and conclusions cannot fail of receiving many valuable hints from the perusal of his book. It certainly contains a vast amount of useful information, and well deserves an extensive circulation.

 In the list of books published by Messrs. Durrie & Peck, and advertised in the Journal, will be found many valuable and standard works.

LOVELL'S READERS are rapidly increasing in circulation, and seem to be highly approved by those who have given them a trial. They are certainly good books, and particularly adapted to interest the young.

LOVELL'S YOUNG SPEAKER has been long before the public, and is highly appreciated. It is one of the best books, for common school use, ever published.

THOMPSON'S DAY'S ALGEBRA, DAY'S MATHEMATICS AND COLTON'S GREEK READER, have been long and favorably known.

The publishers of these works spare no pains in their attempts to have the mechanical execution of their works of the most substantial style.